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UNDP

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF BANGLADESH, INDIA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA AND THAILAND

Support for Regional Co-operation in the Industrial Application of Isotopes and Radiation Technology (Preparatory Assistance) (RAS/79/061)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	April 1980
Starting date of project activities:	August 1980
Expected completion date:	July 1981
Executed by:	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Government implementing agencies:	National Atomic and Nuclear Energy Services in Each Country
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$386,000
Source of UNDP financing:	Intercountry Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In March 1979, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presented a proposal to UNDP aimed at promoting co-operation among countries signatories to the Regional

*In accordance with the General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Governments or by third-party cost sharing).

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Co-operative Agreement (RCA) 1/ in the industrial application of isotopes and radiation technology, particularly in the fields of non-destructive testing (NDT), nuclear control systems (gauges), radiation processing and radio tracers and nuclear analytical techniques.

2. A short-term Advisory Mission was established by UNDP in co-operation with IAEA in August 1979 to explore the implications of the proposal and to assess the practical applicability of the techniques in question. A review of the proposal during a debriefing session in New York showed that a number of its important aspects needed further definition and clarification. Consequently, it was decided to start the project with one year of preparatory assistance, during which time the project document would be finalized.

II. Objectives and activities

3. The long-range objective of the project is to foster economic and social gains in RCA countries through the expanded use of radio-isotope techniques. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) introduce isotope and radiation technology selectively, where it can provide economic benefits and can serve as a model for identical or similar plant operations elsewhere: (b) provide the required infrastructure in both government and industry for expanded applications of such technology: (c) provide special training to develop the manpower necessary to achieve the previous objectives and to provide the data and information essential to government and industry decision-making.

III. Inputs

4. Under the preparatory assistance now approved, UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, for the services of a chief technical advisor for a period of 12 man-months and consultants for a total of 12 man-months in the utilization of radiation and isotopes in paper and steel industries, modification of rubber plastics and wood products, tin mining, and in non-destructive testing. UNDP will also provide training for 20 participants each in courses in advanced non-destructive testing and nuclear instrument technician training.

IV. Financial data

5. The expenditure components of the planned preparatory assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	199 000
Training	180 000
Miscellaneous	7 000
	386 000

1/ A Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA) for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology was formulated under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for interested Governments in South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific. The RCA entered into force in June 1972 for five years, and the Agreement was extended for an additional five years from June 1977. The Member States party to this Agreement include: Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The RCA provides a mechanism for promoting research, development and training projects in nuclear science and technology, with the assistance of the IAEA, through co-operative programmes and activities among the appropriate national institutions of participating Member States.